

English I: Unit 04

Writing Appetizer

Purpose: Writing Appetizers serve to help students develop writing fluency and voice while generating ideas for future writing.

Time: 5–10 min.

Description: The Writing Appetizer is a short exercise to encourage students to generate ideas for future writing endeavors. This will help students see that they need a unifying message for their essays. It is recommended that within this time, students are given the opportunity to share their ideas with a partner or with the class. Having an audience is an important part of being a writer.

Option 1: After reading the text, instruct students to write a brief persuasive text based upon the counter-argument of the topic. This strategy allows students to better understand the opposition.

Option 2: Instruct students to find one claim (statistic or unsubstantiated fact) within their text and write a paragraph explaining why that claim is a false claim.

Option 3: After reading the text, students should rewrite the argument for a different audience. This can be briefer than the original text but must have some supporting details.

Preparation: As the unit begins, instruct students to find and bring in a copy of one persuasive text on a current event that they found controversial. The articles/texts are compiled into folders that contain four of these texts. These texts can come from different sources but all sources should be referenced or cited in the text. Students will read these texts throughout the Reading and Writing Appetizers.